

As the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire I have a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption within West Yorkshire Police service and would require that the Nolan principles of public life are strictly adhered to and enforced.

In this respect I would expect that the Force Professional Standards Department are robust in their investigations into corruption amongst police officers and staff. Business interest applications to be private investigators should not be approved by the Force and as the Commissioner I also expect any unauthorised work in this area to be proactively investigated and the appropriate criminal and disciplinary sanctions enforced. Similarly any corrupt activities regarding the selling of data and access to the police national computer and other Force systems will be robustly investigated.

In response to your specific questions:

1. What are you doing to eliminate corruption in the local police?

- *A draft Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption policy has been devised and is being developed as a joint policy for the Force and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).*
- *Regular meetings are held with Professional Standards Department and the Chief Executive (OPCC) at which updates in relation to ongoing cases are provided.*
- *The OPCC is represented at an Integrity Board.*
- *Audits of the key risk areas are undertaken across the Force.*
- *New policies on Business Interests, Gifts & Hospitality and Media Handling have been prepared and will be launched in April, these are now the responsibility of the Professional Standards Department.*

2. What will you do about serving police officers who advertise their services as private investigators on Linked-In or elsewhere without being authorised to work privately by their Chief Constable or Professional Standards?

The new business interest policy involves review and approval by a selected board of members (Professional Standards Department/HR) who will make a decision on the business interest; this will ensure that a corporate approach is taken for all business interests. A review of current business interests will be conducted and where appropriate those not deemed compatible with the force policy will be revoked, this again will be conducted through the panel. The position of Private Investigator is not one which would be a compatible business interest for a serving police officer and therefore would not be approved under the new policy arrangements. Any officer who is found to be conducting such a role would be subject to discipline procedures.

3. How are you satisfied that such officers have not been selling access to the police national computer contrary to prevailing law?

Access to the police national computer is restricted to specific roles and is only available via secure access through Force equipment. All officers and staff are required to complete appropriate training and access to systems is monitored.

4. What is the penalty or punishment for officers who work as private investigators without authorisation from their Chief Constable or Professional Standards?

No officer would be authorised to work as a private investigator – any serving officer found to be working as a private investigator will be subject to discipline procedures.

5. How many current serving Police Offices are authorised to work as private Investigators?

Before the launch of the new policies all existing business interests will be reviewed and if found to be not compatible with force policies these will be revoked. Any officer found to be conducting a business interest which has not been approved will be subject to discipline procedures. Please contact West Yorkshire Police foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk for further details of officer numbers.

6. How many serving police have been suspended, sacked or reprimanded for working as private investigators without authorisation, over the last twelve months?

Please contact West Yorkshire Police foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk for further details.